



World Meteorological Organization

Working together in weather, climate and water

Open discussion on SEECOF process and future perspectives including communication aspects

Peer Hechler

WMO



Introductory remarks

Aim of discussion:

To discuss aspects
to strengthen the SEECOF mechanism in terms of
Operations,
Communication,
User liaison
and
Sustainability.



Introductory remarks

Issues to be tackled:

Part I: Technical issues

Part II: Communication aspects

Part III: General and strategic issues

Part IV: Recommendations

Note (due to time constraints):

Black colour: No discussion; encouragement to SEECOF focal points to consider tackling these issues

Red colour: Discussion to agree on some common understanding ...



Introductory remarks

Aspects included:

- (i) Lessons learnt from SEECOF-III
- (ii) Communication
- (iii) Considerations for future SEECOFs

Part I: Technical issues

Terminology used in consensus statement [IPCC definitions: likely, very likely ...; *likely to be* normal to above normal (of ... °C); What does the users need?]

Standardisation of reference periods [hindcast periods of combined forecast anomalies]

Verification of outlooks [objective verification (requires numerical formulation of outlook) vs. subjective evaluation (to be standardised; requires consistent reference periods)]

[Standardisation of climate monitoring inputs (reference period, 'high impact events') -> separate discussion tomorrow morning]



Part II: Communication issues

How to efficiently communicate SEECOF outlooks to users incl. the public
[consider e.g. challenge of different languages (-> use of pictures?!); invite NMHSs to issue press releases?]

SEECOF-internal communication: Is the Forum widely acknowledged and fully maintained in future?

Maintenance of a SEECOF WebSite (by whom?)

How to get information on (end) user feedback: NMHSs, national end users, regional users (if any)

Part III: General and strategic issues

Can we outline a SEECOF event plan for the next 3 years hosts?

[Consider recommendations on CPT training and review paper on SEECOF subregion relevant external forcings for the SEECOF region climate; rotation vs fixed arrangements; mix of online-COFs and physical meetings incl. training]

How to achieve sustainability in terms of funding? [e.g. definition of new project, attract users to contribute, ...]

Identify resource persons from the region!

How are countries able to use the SEECOF mechanism? [e.g. survey?]

Which strategic co-operations to be considered? [e.g. end user engagement; research institutes ...]

Part III: General and strategic issues

Review of Online-COF plan [3 step approach] and how to involve users!?

How to increase participation in SEECOF consensus discussion [Excellent participation in SEECOF III/ step 1 but rare participation in steps 2 and 3: Why? Training requirements ...; how to deal with a situation, where only resource persons contribute ...??! See recommendations proposed]

How to compile knowledge about climate variability (including external teleconnections) in, **and climate-related vulnerabilities** of, the SEECOF region?! [see recommendation]

Organisation of separate Climate Change Outlook Forums?

How to link with the WMO Climate Watch approach in RA VI?



Some final comments for consideration

Transition from provider-focused to user-focused approach!

Finalise nomination of national SEECOF Focal Points!

Versioning of drafts (especially important for Online-COF!)

Final consensus statement:

- Avoid colouring areas along country borders
- Mention (standardise) reference periods

Recommendations

Note: SEE-VCCC and DMC-SEE to act as SEECOF mechanism Focal Points (already recommended by SEECOF II)

Elaboration of a scientific paper on external (and internal?) forcings relevant to the SEECOF region's climate regime and its variability to serve as a baseline for climate outlook discussions and products; consider a workshop on that!?!

Add (reference) climatology information (numbers) to SEECOF outlook products (-> Croation example)



Recommendations

Focus on in-depth LRF and/or CPT training independent from SEECOF events to enable SEECOF individual countries to more actively participate in the consensus discussions and to ensure an efficient SEECOF outlook communication to users at national levels

Recommendations

Strengthen the user interface:

- encourage SEECOF NMHSs to hold user seminars on LRF (e.g. triggered by SEECOF outlooks) (in national languages); encourage training (both sides!!) and joint projects
- use physical RCOF events to provide examples of user interactions (also from outside the region)
- provide (and communicate!!) updates to seasonal outlooks on shorter forecast ranges (-> monthly, medium-range, weather forecasts) and alert users in case of significant changes (regional?? and national levels)
- ? Consider setting up an end user Task Team to elaborate on LRF user requirements?